



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**APPROVED**

**BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
8<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, 33301  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10/2018 through 9/2019 Cumulative Attendance</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Brian Donaldson, Chair	P	9	0
David Orshefsky, Vice Chair	P	9	0
William Goetz	A	6	1
Jeff Lowe	P	8	1
Gregg McKee	P	9	0
Robert McGrath	A	1	1
Prabhuling Patel	A	5	1
Johnnie Smith	P	8	1
Christopher Williams	P	7	0
John Xanthos	P	1	0

Also Attending

Laura Reece, Budget Director  
Paul Berg, Public Works Director  
Charmaine Crawford, Budget Division  
Jamie Opperee, Prototype Inc. Recording Secretary

Communications to the City Commission

None

Purpose: To Provide the City with input regarding the taxpayers' perspective in the development of the annual operating budget; to review projections and estimates from the City Manager regarding revenues and expenditures for upcoming fiscal year; to advise the City Commission on service levels and priorities and fiscal solvency; and to submit recommendations to the City Commission no later than August 15 of each year regarding a budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Budget Advisory Board was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes  
A. June 5, 2019**

**Motion** made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Lowe, to approve the minutes of the Board's June 5, 2019 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

**B. August 14, 2019**

Mr. McKee pointed out Mr. Patel had made a motion on page 7.

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Orshefsky, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the minutes of the Board's August 14, 2019 meeting as amended. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Floor Open for Neighbor Input**

None

**V. Old Business**

None

**VI. New Business**

**A. Infrastructure Task Force Update – Board Member Orshefsky**

Mr. Orshefsky said they were currently focused on the funding and the long-term effects of maintenance obligations, particularly for areas that had suffered deferred maintenance. They had specifically discussed the Fiveash water plant, which he anticipated would come up again on their agendas.

Mr. Orshefsky stated the Board was considering when a replacement should be considered instead of continued repair. There was currently \$40 million in repairs needed at Fiveash. There was a study that should be completed by the end of the year and Mr. Orshefsky thought it was likely the engineers would determine the plant needed to be replaced, the only question was how soon.

## **B. Updated Budget Advisory Board Recommendation Matrix**

Ms. Reece had provided the Board a copy of this report, which was issued twice per year and included the Board's motions since April 2014.

Ms. Reece reported the City's budget had passed 4-0 at the previous evening's City Commission meeting. Commissioner Sorensen had recused himself from the vote because his wife worked for the NOVA art museum, which received funds from the City.

Ms. Reece said all non-ad valorem fees had been passed by the City Commission on September 12, including the Fire Assessment Fee. On September 17 the Commission had held the second readings regarding the ordinances for utility rates as well as the Sunrise Key and City millage and budget.

## **C. Pros and Cons of FY 2020 Department Budget Packets and Meeting Format - Changes for FY 2021**

### **D. FY 2020 Work Plan Discussion**

Chair Donaldson explained that last year the BAB had not had a total budget to make a recommendation about. This year the process had gone much smoother, with the City Commission meeting in January to set priorities, allowing the City Manager and staff time to allocate funds to those priorities.

Chair Donaldson had taken the best things about 2019 and used them as markers for 2020 goals. He said they would discuss agenda items for the November meeting next month, when two new Board members would be present.

Chair Donaldson appreciated the fact that there would be a training program for new BAB members at the next meeting. The training would start at 5 p.m. prior to their October meeting at 6 p.m.

Chair Donaldson wanted new members to be aware that the Board only dealt with General Fund issues, not other funds. Ms. Reece said the Board historically focused on the General Fund because that is the most competitive funding source.

Mr. Orshefsky suggested staff brief the BAB on the Commission's priorities after their discussions in January so they could have these in mind for the departmental budget reviews.

Mr. Orshefsky suggested the Board focus on budget modifications, new department priorities or areas where metrics had not been met in the departmental presentations. Ms. Reece said this could be de-motivating for staff. Mr. Orshefsky recognized there was a tension between the time the departmental budgets must be provided to the City

administration and the development of the preliminary budget in June. The difficulty was the question of what parts of the May departmental presentations were likely to happen and which were not. Some things that came through as a budget modification, such as a mandatory IT upgrade, were not discretionary. So it would be positive to have a handle on what the administration was likely to or must fund.

Chair Donaldson said the coming year would be more challenging to balance the budget because they were reducing the ROI and he did not feel the increase in property values would provide a windfall. Mr. Orshefsky added that there had been a lot of one-time cost reductions this year that would not be available next year.

Chair Donaldson suggested each month they examine their work plan for two months ahead to consider moving or cancelling a meeting.

## **VII. Communications to/from the City Commission**

None

## **VIII. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Williams appreciated the workshop on the budget when he was a new Board member and said he had learned a lot.

Mr. Lowe agreed that next year would be more challenging.

Mr. McKee said they had not received much interaction regarding the Stantec long-term sufficiency model. Ms. Reece suggested a more in-depth view of it prior to meeting with the City Commission and said staff preferred doing it that way as well. Mr. Berg agreed to follow up with Stantec about what to do short of another full study. He felt there were some things they could do to address concerns voiced by the City Commission.

Chair Donaldson suggested they look at the rate study in October so they could send a communication to the City Commission after understanding the data. He wanted to discuss the Stantec study at the Board's November meeting.

Mr. Orshefsky suggested that alternative funding sources be factored into the departmental presentations. He recalled that Police and Fire had attempted to add "large numbers" to the budget, when there were other credits they were able to develop. Ms. Reece stated they did not budget for FEMA grants in the operating budget. Mr. Orshefsky recalled that Finance had four bonds that caused a net positive to the general revenue. Chair Donaldson suggested making a note of these things.

Mr. Orshefsky announced he was leaving the BAB. He thanked Board members and staff for being responsive and supportive.

Ms. Reece thanked Mr. Orshefsky and presented him a plaque commemorating his service on the Board.

Mr. Orshefsky suggested the Board appoint his BAB replacement, Michael Marshall, who was a lawyer, planner and civil engineer, to be on the Infrastructure Task Force in his stead

Mr. Williams thanked Ms. Reece and her staff for keeping the Board informed.

## **IX. Adjourn**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.